Subject: Weekly Brief for Wednesday, February 28, 2018

From: LADOT Communications Office <dot public info@lacity.org>

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To: <andrew@thewestwoodvillage.com>

GET ON THE BUS: A History of Black Influence in Transportation

On Tuesday, February 27th Assistant General Manager Monique Earl, along with Executive Administrative Assistant Barron Lightner, Supervising Transportation Planner I Tina Backstrom, and Transportation Planning Associate II Dr. Destiny Thomas lead a presentation on the history of the black influence in the transportation industry.

They highlighted luminaries from Harriet Tubman and her underground walk towards freedom, to Dr. William Lark, Jr.'s groundbreaking designs in urban mobility. A big topic was also the impact transportation projects have played in black communities over time, and current efforts to reshape this narrative.

LADOT thanks everyone who joined in the fun and supported efforts to celebrate Black History Month.

Celebrating Engineers: of the Present and of the Future!

Happy Engineers Week! The American Society of Civil Engineers Los Angeles Younger Member Forum and the City of Los Angeles, with the support of the Offices of Councilmembers David Ryu (CD4), Mitch O'Farrell (CD13), Herb Wesson (CD10), Marqueece Harris-Dawson (CD 8), and Paul Krekorian (CD 2), hosted its 5th Annual Engineers Week Celebration during the week of February 20 – 24.

Transportation Engineering Associate I, Brian Phan coordinated and hosted over 800+ students and Girl Scouts in a 5-day community outreach event dedicated to introducing students of all levels to local branches of government and various fields of engineering. The goal is to educate students about how their own communities were built upon and create and to raise public awareness of engineers' positive contributions to quality of life. Engineers Week promotes recognition among parents, teachers, and students of the importance of a technical education and a high level of math, science, and technology literacy, and motivates youth, to pursue engineering careers in order to provide a diverse and vigorous engineering workforce.

1 of 3 06/27/2018 03:09 PM

Bringing the Construction Industry Together

On Tuesday, February 27th Transportation Engineering Associate IV Lupe Sandoval, Transportation Engineering Associate I Brenda Mata, and Transportation Engineering Associate II Michael Cabanilla represented LADOT at the "BuildWith: LA City Construction Matchmaking Event," sponsored by Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilmember Curren D. Price. BuildWith serves as a matchmaking event for businesses in the construction industry to make connections and create relationships. Small businesses are paired to meet one-on-one with prime contractors and public agencies, including LADOT, seeking to do business with specific types of companies.

Be Advised: Night Closures on the 101 Freeway

As part of the Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project, nighttime closures will be taking place on the 101 Freeway in downtown LA. Closures started this Monday, February 26th, and will run until March 2nd. Closures will begin from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Follow @6thstviaduct on Twitter for more details!

SPEED LIMITS

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilmember Mike Bonin Announce New Speed Limits at Press Conference Today

71 L.A streets have new speed limits, the result of recently-updated speed surveys by LADOT. The new speed limits will be coupled with increased LAPD enforcement efforts across the City as part of the Vision Zero initiative to decrease traffic fatalities. In order to set and enforce speed limits on local streets, the State of California requires a "speed survey" — measuring the average speed of the majority of drivers when the street is uncrowded, road collision history, roadside conditions, residential and business density, and pedestrian and bicyclist safety to best determine an appropriate speed for the street — every 5-10 years. Because many of L.A.'s surveys expired during the recession, LADOT prioritized the updates as a component of its Vision Zero plan.

As a result of the updated surveys, over 98.4% percent of streets on the Vision Zero High Injury Network and 68% percent of streets citywide now have an enforceable speed limit. All City streets are expected to have updated speed limits by the end of the year. Please click here for a detailed map of the newly updated speed limits.

2 of 3 06/27/2018 03:09 PM

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3 of 3 06/27/2018 03:09 PM